

I have been asked why the railroad lines on the map published with my paper should be so heavily shaded; I had hoped to be able to give some information about the influence of railroads on the migrations or settlement of birds in a new country, but found my data insufficient; however, I hope at some future time to have the aid of Mr. P. A. Tavernier, and be able to go into the matter more fully. — J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Can.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Norton on Birds from Labrador.<sup>1</sup>—Although only 32 species are here recorded, Mr. Norton has given an interest to his paper aside from the mere records of the 95 specimens obtained by the Bowdoin College Expedition of 1891. Of especial interest is his discussion of the case of *Fratercula arctica* in reference to the changes of plumage and of the form and markings of the bill with age. Mr. Norton has compared the American bird with specimens from Spitzbergen, Norway, the Orkney Islands, and other European localities, and finds that there is a slight but constant difference in the size of the bill between the European and American birds. He adds that the type locality of *Alca arctica* is clearly the "northern oceans of Europe," and that if the American bird be separated its proper name will be *Mormon glacialis* of Temminck. He also considers that the Spitzbergen form is separable from true *arctica*, and proposes for it the name *F. arctica naumanni*. The differences in the size and form of the bill are illustrated by a table of measurements and figures (pl. ii).

In reference to the Labrador Spruce Grouse, described by Bangs in 1899 as *Canachites canadensis labradorius*, Mr. Norton claims that it is the bird previously named *canace* by Linnæus in the 12th edition of the 'Systema Naturæ.' He concludes that the name *Canachites canadensis* (Linn.) must be restricted to the Spruce Grouse of Labrador and Hudson Bay, while "*Canachites canadensis canace* (Linn.) must be brought forward for the form inhabiting portions of Canada, the northern United States, and New Brunswick."

The species are annotated with reference to the phases of plumage they present, and record is also made of the occurrence of *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Chateau Bay, its first record for Labrador. — J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Bowdoin College Expedition to Labrador in 1891. By Arthur H. Norton. Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, pp. 139-158 and pl. ii. Published May 20, 1901.